HE-MAN™ AND THE POWER SWORD

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

FREE ILLUSTRATED BOOK WITH PURCHASE

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Outside the castle, *He-Man* was using his vehicle like a battering-ram to try to gain entry.

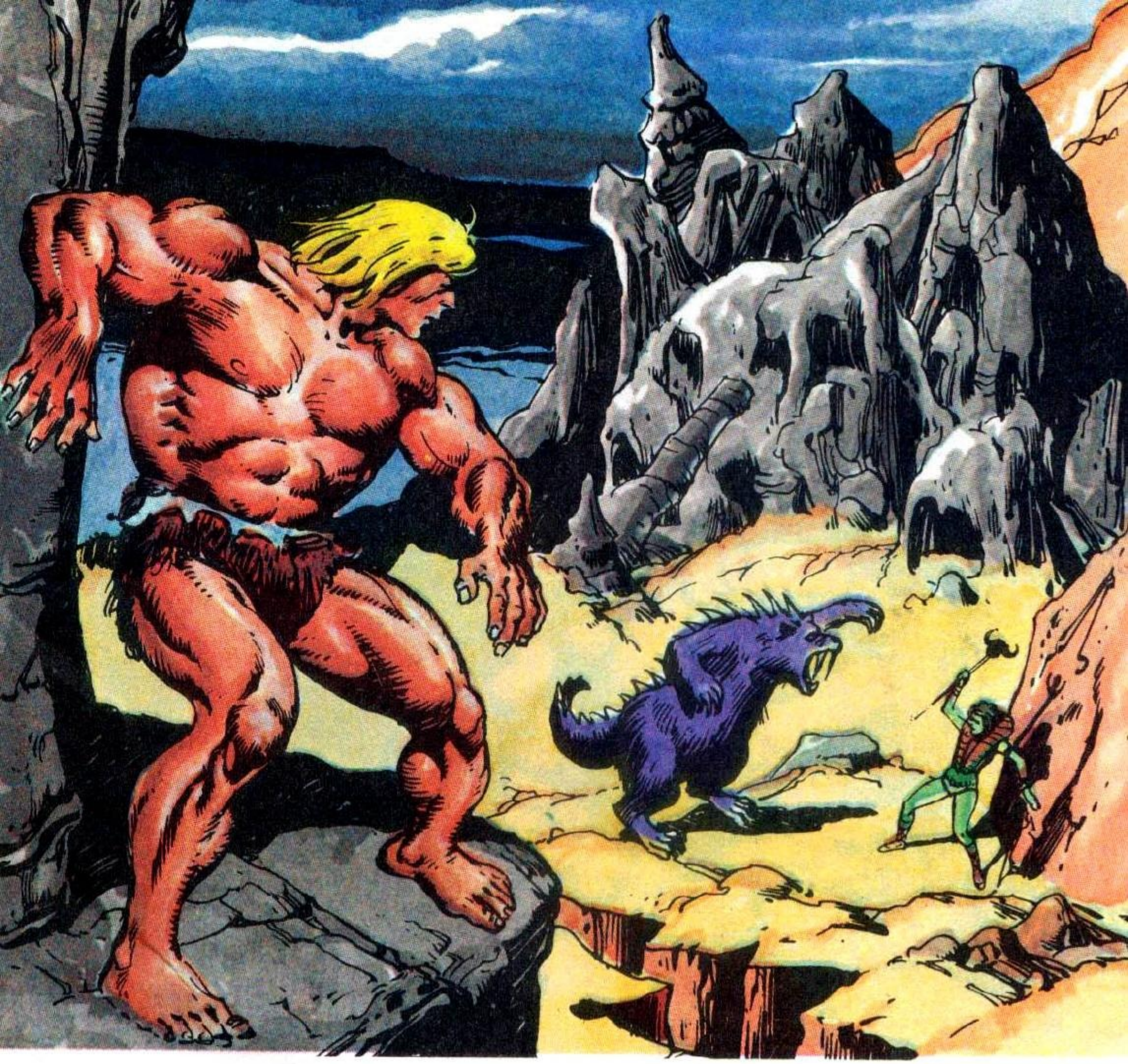
"*He-Man*!" snarled *Beastman*, as he reached the castle's laser-cannon and fired a deadly bolt toward his foe. But *He-Man's* forcefield garment easily repelled the blast.

"Is that the *best* you can do, you brainless gorilla?" *He-Man* taunted. "If so, I have nothing to worry about!"

A mighty figure stood at the edge of the jungle that had, until this day, always been his home. *He-Man*, the tribe's greatest warrior, waved his farewell. He might have preferred to stay, but he had a noble mission to accomplish.

"Evil forces exist on our planet Eternia," *He-Man* told his people. "They seek to control the legendary *Castle Grayskull*, a place of wonders. If we are to know a lasting

 peace, I must go out and battle those forces. Farewell."



The outside world had long been a mystery to *He-Man's* tribe, although they had heard the fantastic tales about the mysterious *Castle Grayskull*. *He-Man* was the first of his people to trudge these craggy cliffs and quake-torn valleys. His homeland was already in the distant mists when he heard the cry for help.

Gazing into the valley, *He-Man* saw that his courage and jungle-bred strength were already needed!

In a blur of bronze movement, *He-Man* leaped from the cliffside and onto his shaggy foe. His powerful fingers dug deeply into the monster's hide. But *He-Man* was not fighting this creature alone.

He-Man glimpsed the woman as she gestured magically and attacked the creature with mystical bolts of force. "She is a sorceress!" he thought. But her magic hardly fazed the animal. The same could not be said of *He-Man's* might.

Defeated, the animal fled, while the Sorceress regained her breath. "Your strength... your courage," she said, "mark you as the legendary hero who is to inherit the treasures I have guarded all these years. They were made centuries before the Great Wars by Eternia's scientists."

Inside the ancient ruins, the Sorceress gave *He-Man* the guarded costumes and weapons. "They will add to your strength. Use them wisely — especially in defense of *Castle Grayskull*."

Riding in the strange vehicle, which was a combination battering ram, catapult, and space-warp device — *He-Man* set off again on his mission. A particular valley, still miles away from the castle, struck his fancy. This valley would serve as his new home and headquarters.

Wearing the costume that gave him superhuman strength, *He-Man* went to work carving out his new home — using no tools other than the power in his fists.

But even as *He-Man* constructed his dwelling, evil eyes were gazing upon *Tee-La*, the warrior-goddess, as she watered her unicorn charger.

"There is none in all of Eternia as beautiful as she," grunted the ape-like *Beastman*. "I'm really starting to believe that she *is* a goddess!"

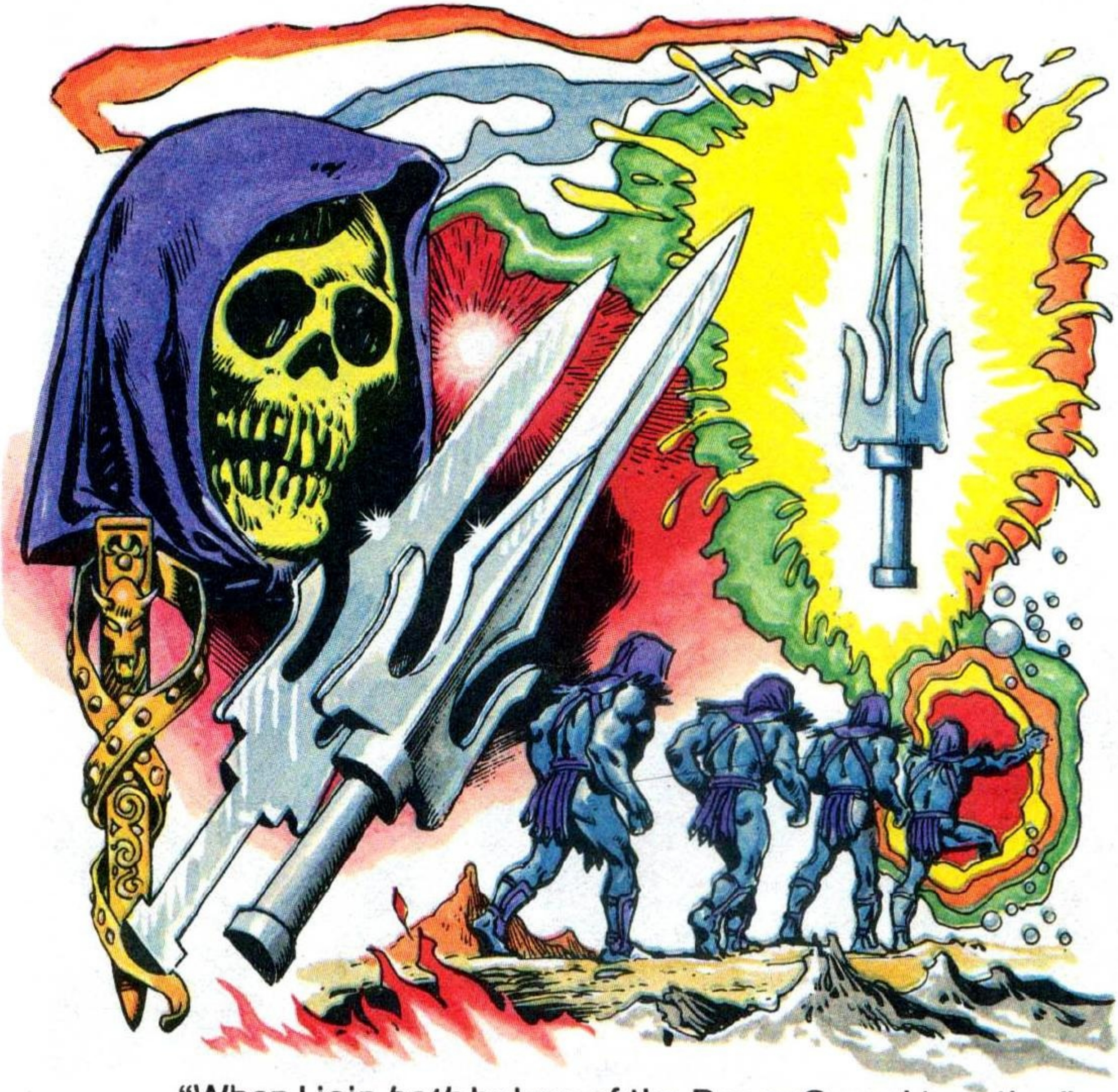
"Soon she will be more than that," whispered his master, *Skeletor*. "Soon she will be my bride!"

But it was no simple matter to capture the warrior-goddess. She fought like a demon, her body possessing the spirits of many ancestral champions. Only *Skeletor's* energy-blade, after freezing her courageous steed, at long last shocked her unconscious.

"Carry her to *Castle Grayskull*," *Skeletor* commanded his underling, *Beastman*. "But be careful! I do not like having my bride-to-be damaged!"

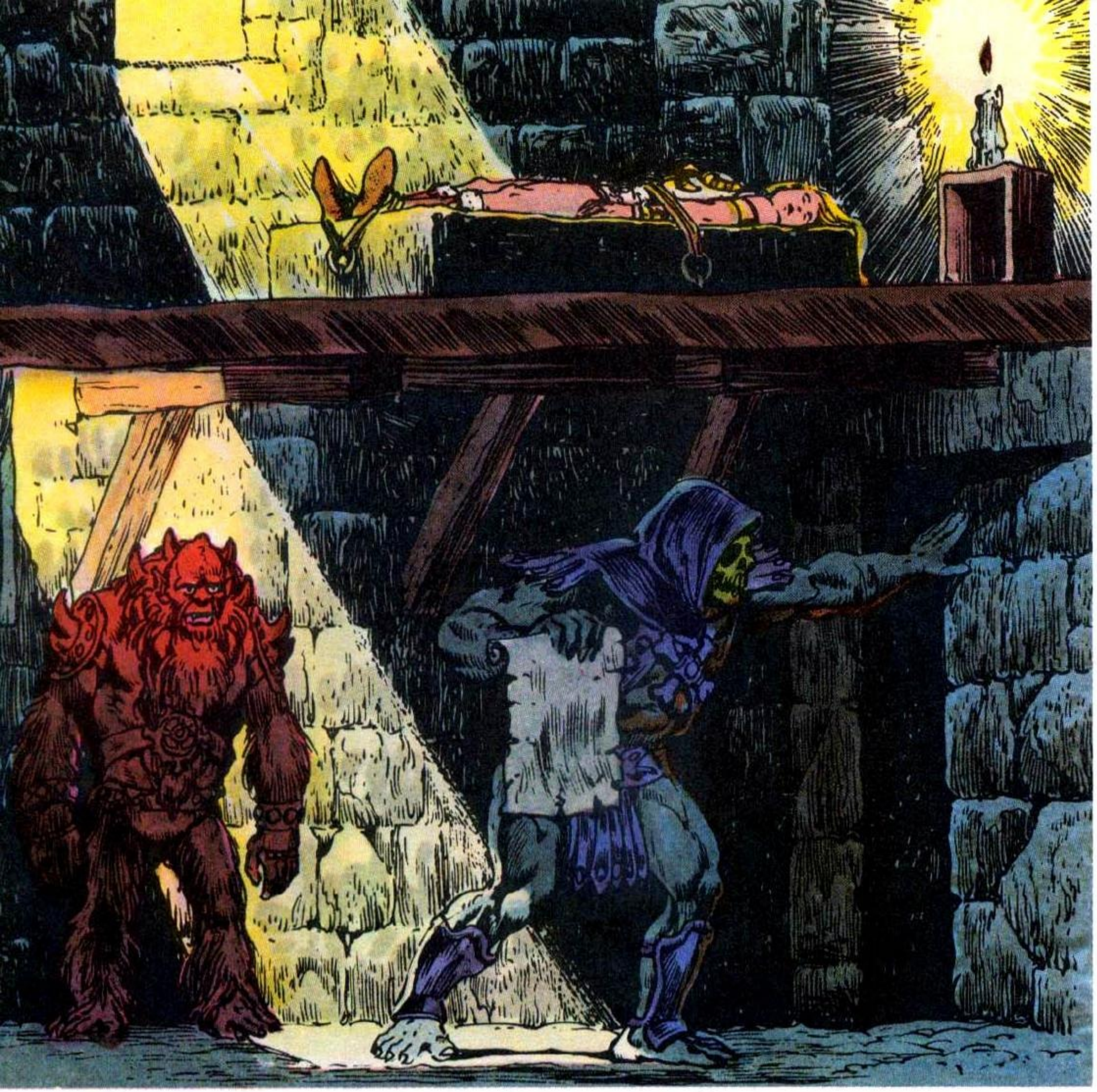
Entering the grim castle, *Skeletor* and his accomplice failed to notice the other warrior departing through the shadows in his heavily armed chariot.

"I defy you, Spirit of the Castle!" shouted *Skeletor.* "Your many secrets shall be mine! I hold half of the mystic *Power Sword!* I shall soon possess the other half which is hidden within your walls. Then I will have full power! And none of your deadly traps will stop me!"



"When I join *both* halves of the Power Sword together," exclaimed *Skeletor*, "the magic fires, created by ancient scientists and sorcerers, will blaze again!" And he thought back...

"Once I lived in another dimension, populated with others of my kind. But when the Great Wars opened a 'hole' in the dimensional wall, I was thrown into *this* world. With the complete Power Sword, I shall reopen that hole and bring my people here to conquer this dimensional world!"



After strapping the unconscious warrior-goddess to a stone slab, *Beastman* searched, with animal-like cunning, through the castle. At last, he found an ancient scroll upon which had been drawn a map. The map, which seemed to have been drawn in blood, had many strange symbols which only *Skeletor* could understand.

"They show the way to a fiery sword!" he shouted. Following the map, *Skeletor* led the way to a secret passage.

He-Man was finishing his dwelling when he saw the approaching chariot. "And what brings the famous *Man At Arms* to my humble house?" he asked sarcastically.

Man At Arms, whose people were masters of all weapons, described what he had seen. "If *Skeletor* controls the castle, he might use its secrets to conquer Eternia," he said coldly. "And I shudder to think what fate he has planned for the warrior-goddess."

"If we fight side-by-side," offered *Man At Arms*, "we can more easily defeat *Skeletor* and his henchman."

"You would be a worthy partner," said *He-Man*. "But if the threat is as great as you say, I have no time to waste getting to *Castle Grayskull* by *wheels*."

And, before *Man At Arms* could say another word, *He-Man* activated the Battle Ram's space-warp device. Moments later, *He-Man* was vanishing... to reappear somewhere else.

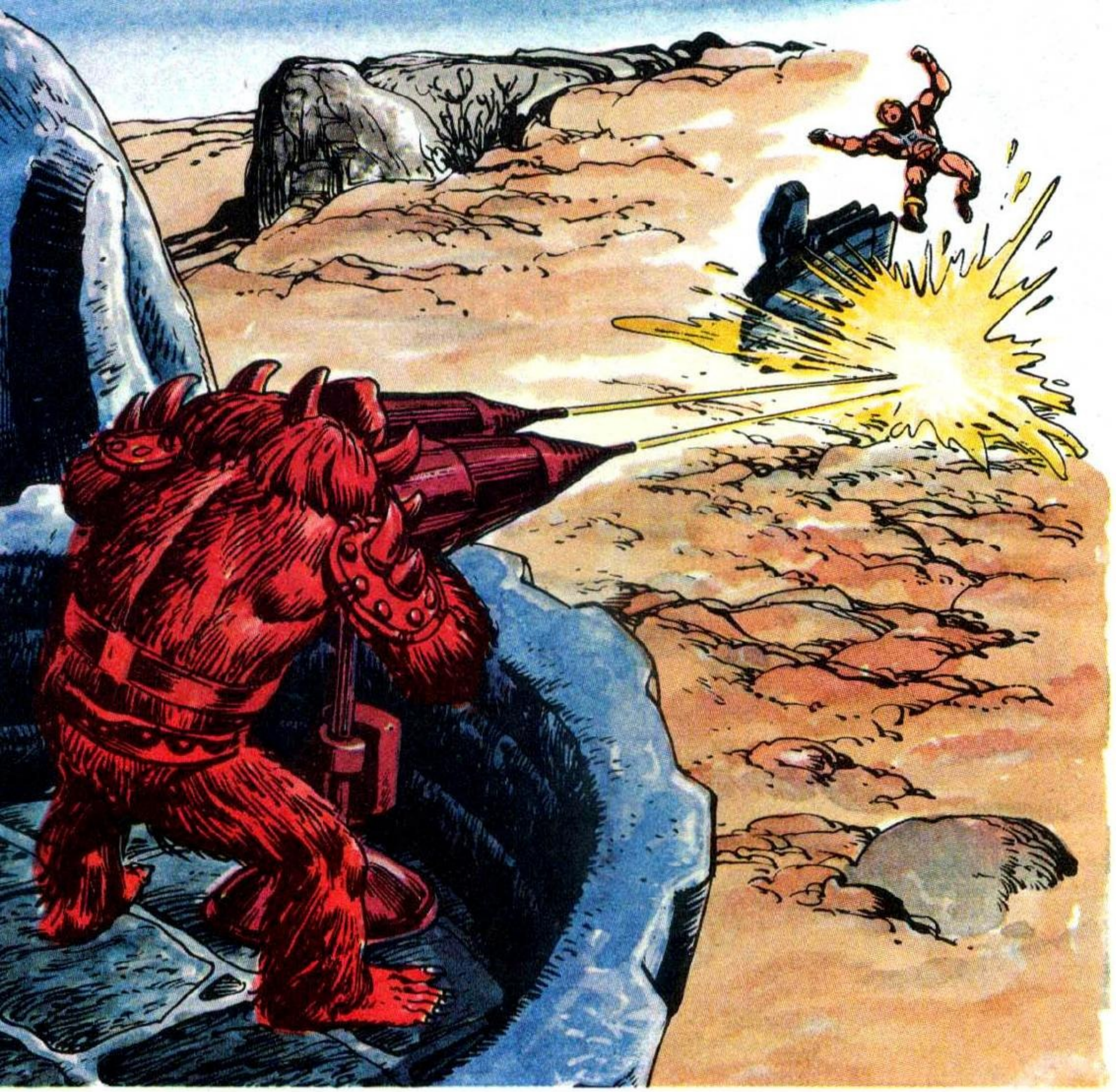
At the castle, meanwhile, *Skeletor* and *Beastman* had reached the end of the secret passageway and had found a rusty metal door. But as they touched the door, the Spirit of the Castle cursed them and unleashed its ghostly demons.

Beastman's claws and fangs only went through the spectres, but *Skeletor's* lightning-blade quickly blasted them to nothingness. "Again I defeat you, Spirit of the Castle!" rasped *Skeletor.* "Now, to seize your greatest treasure!"

Yet, not even the brute strength of *Beastman* could break open the door.

"Stand back, you ape!" ordered *Skeletor*, as he proceeded to cut through the ancient door with his lightning-blade as if it were melting butter. And even as the door gave way, a commotion could be heard from outside. "See what it is," commanded *Skeletor*.

And *Beastman* loped obediently down the dark corridor.



Perhaps *He-Man* did not have to worry about the laser-cannon penetrating his forcefield. But he did not figure on *Beastman* choosing a new target... the vehicle which was not protected by that barrier of force!

As *He-Man* rolled out of the overturning vehicle, his costume's forcefield was accidentally switched off.

"Now to finish you off!" growled *Beastman*, aiming the laser-cannon at his seemingly helpless victim.

Inside the tunnel, *Skeletor* saw the shiny object. Its broken blade seemed to beckon to him. He grasped it in his scaly hands, then eagerly placed the two halves of the ancient object together. He could feel the unbelievable energies of the sword as the blade burst into green fire!

"The restored Power Sword!" he exclaimed. "With this, I am invincible! There is nothing I cannot do! Nothing!"

Weapon in hand, he turned thirstly for battle.

But *Skeletor's* moment of triumph was abruptly ended as a beautiful figure appeared before him, glowing green like the energies of the Power Sword.

"You have abused the Power Sword," the Sorceress said. And with magical gestures, she removed the Power Sword from *Skeletor's* hand, splitting it again into halves.

Immediately the objects attacking *He-Man* dropped lifelessly to the floor. A moment later, the Sorceress vanished.

Having lost his most powerful weapon, *Skeletor* fled to the roof of the castle, where *Beastman* and *Man At Arms* were already engaged in mortal combat.

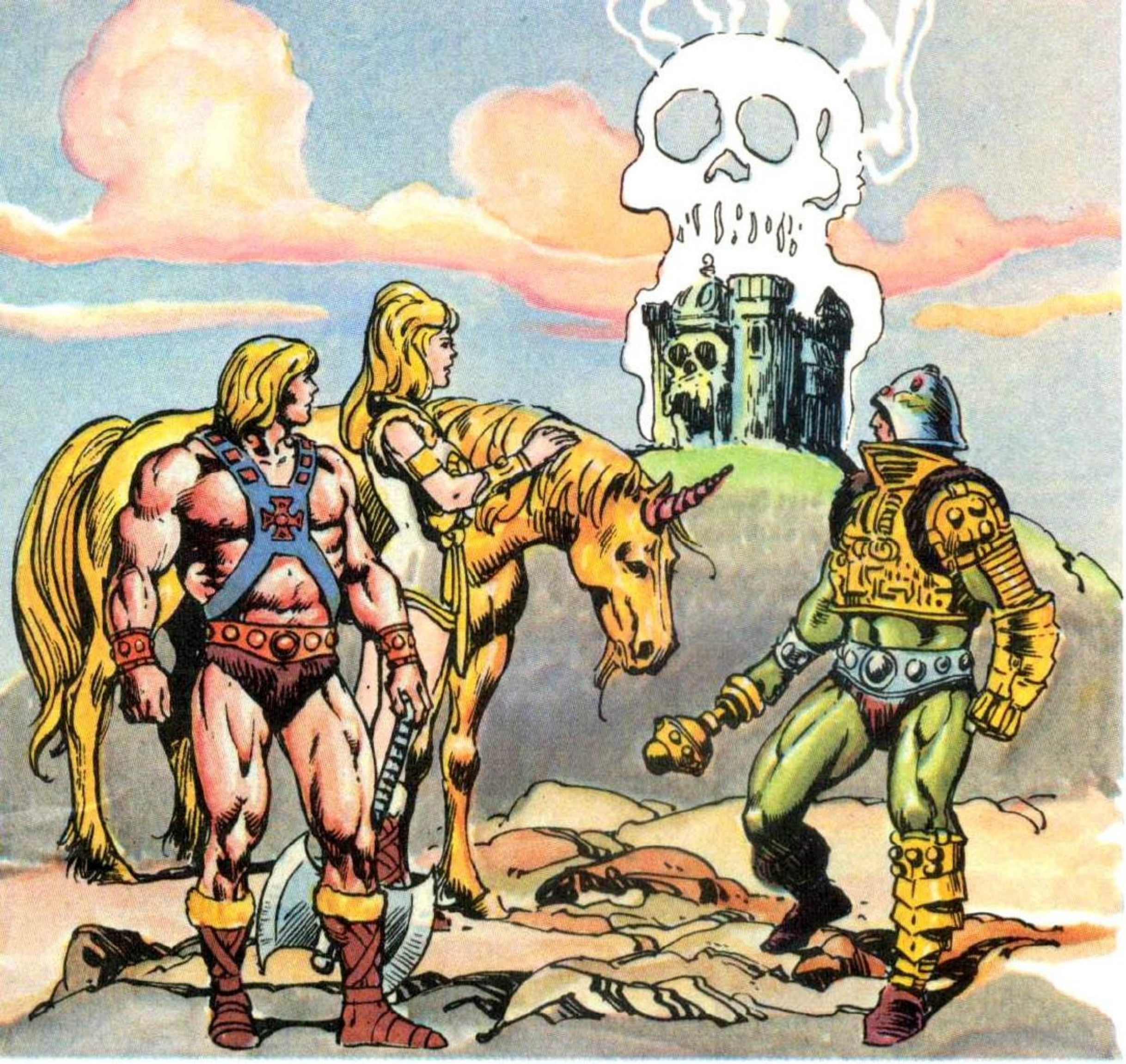
He-Man saw an awakened *Tee-La* tear herself free of her bonds. Then both warriors rushed up the castle's elevator. Soon they were hotly engaged in the rooftop battle.

Hopelessly outnumbered, *Skeletor* and *Beastman* both pleaded. "Mercy!" With that plea, the battle ended.

Together, *He-Man*, *Man At Arms* and *Tee-La* watched their defeated foes flee toward the horizon. Then, seeing an apparition below, they climbed down from the roof of the castle.

"From now on," said the Sorceress, "only the halves of the Power Sword, inserted into this enchanted lock, will open the castle's Jaw-Bridge. And, to keep this castle from again falling into evil hands, I shall hide both halves in secret places."

Saying that, she vanished again in a green cloud.



"You truly are the *'Masters of the Universe'* who are destined to protect my secrets from evil forces," said the Spirit of the Castle. "You should have at least some small reward." That reward came in the form of a snow-white unicorn that galloped over the hill, returning to his mistress.

"Do you think that is the last of those two or the Power Sword?" asked *Man At Arms.*

"I doubt it," answered *He-Man.* But as he looked toward the rising sun, it seemed to be a good omen for Eternia and the *'Masters of the Universe.'*

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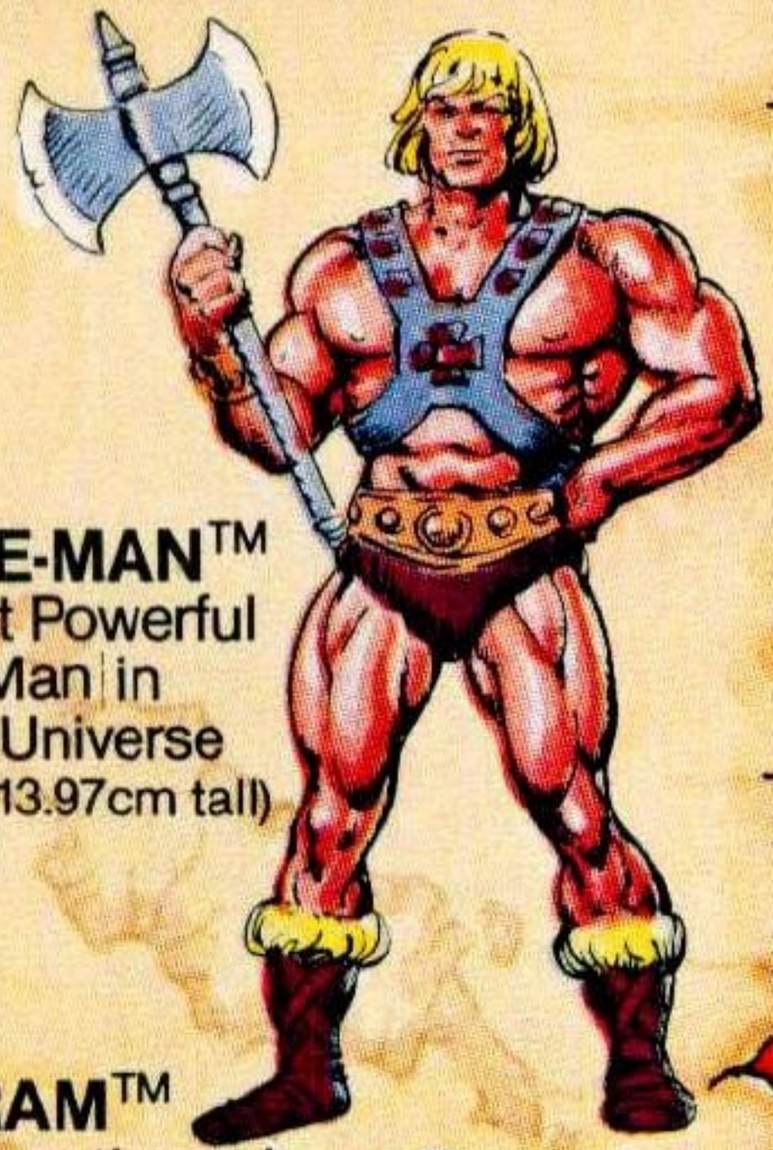

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